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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1958

PREFACE

Public Health Office,
12a, Institute Road,
Swanage, Dorset.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Wareham

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Wareham for the year 1958.

The Report is set out in sections in the following order:-

	Pages
Statistics	1 - 2
Sanitary Circumstances	3 - 5
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There were no serious cases of notifiable infectious disease during the year and the health of the Borough, generally speaking, remained satisfactory.

The estimated mid year population shows an increase of 30. Births were 6 fewer and deaths 12 more than in 1957.

I would like to take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Council the difficulty of young families in finding accommodation to make a home of their own. There are a number of such families, some with one or more children, living in furnished rooms as a rule with relatives. These families I consider are most urgently in need of rehousing and I hope the Council will consider a further building scheme at an early date.

Once again I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration during the year, and to thank the other Officials of the Council for their help and co-operation, especially your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Tanner, who has helped to prepare this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant

E. J. O'KEEFFE

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1959.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. J. O'Keeffe, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. R. Tanner, M.S.I.A.

The Medical Officer of Health holds in addition the following appointments:-

Medical Officer of Health to the Swanage Urban District Council.
Medical Officer of Health to the Wareham & Purbeck Rural District Council.
Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.

Office accommodation and clerical assistance are provided for the Medical Officer of Health jointly by the Authorities concerned.

The Public Health Inspector in addition to his statutory duties is also Borough Surveyor and Petroleum Officer.

The Committees of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health are:-

The Law and General Purposes Committee.
The Waterworks and Sewerage Works Committee
The Housing Committee.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough	710 acres
Population ... ... at Census 1951 ...	2,760
as estimated by Registrar General mid 1957 ...	2,760
" " " " " mid 1958 ...	2,790
Number of inhabited houses ... at end of 1957 ...	852
" " " " ... at end of 1958 ...	857
Rateable value at 1st. April, 1958	£28,990
Sum represented by Penny Rate at 31st. March, 1958	£114.14.8d.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area comparability factors for births 1.10; for deaths 0.51

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female	Comparative Rates: Wareham Borough	Comparative Rates: England & Wales
Total registered ...	40	15	25		
Legitimate	38	13	25		
Illegitimate... ...	2	2	-		
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	14.3			15.7	16.4

Still-Births

	Total	Male	Female		
Total registered ...	-	-	-		
Legitimate	-	-	-		
Illegitimate... ...	-	-	-		
Still-births rate per 1,000 live & still-births	Nil			-	21.6

Total Live and Still-Births

	Total	Male	Female
Total registered	40	15	25

Deaths

	Total	Male	Female		
Total registered	54	26	28		
Death rate per 1,000 population	19.4			9.9	11.7

Infant Deaths under 1 year

	Total	Male	Female
Total registered ...	1	-	1
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate... ...	-	-	-

Infant Deaths under 4 weeks

	Total	Male	Female
Total registered ...	1	-	1
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate... ...	-	-	-

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	25.0	22.5
" " " " " " " - legitimate	26.3	
" " " " " " " illegitimate	Nil	
Neo Natal " " " " " " (first four weeks)	25.0	

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 2.5

Maternal deaths (including abortion) ... ... Nil

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live & still-births Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH - YEAR 1958

(Supplied by the Registrar General)

	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5	Whooping cough	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infection	-	-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8	Measles	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	-	3
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	1	2	3
15	Leukemia, aleukemia	-	-	-
16	Diabetes	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	5	6	11
18	Coronary disease, angina	7	-	7
19	Hypertension with heart disease... ...	1	1	2
20	Other heart diseases	2	8	10
21	Other circulatory diseases	-	1	1
22	Influenza	-	-	-
23	Pneumonia	2	2	4
24	Bronchitis	1	-	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion... ...	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations	-	1	1
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	-	5	5
33	Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34	All other accidents	-	1	1
35	Suicide	1	-	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	Total	26	28	54

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

There has been no alteration in the source of water supply to the Borough during the year.

The water is supplied from one well at Worgret Heath, sunk in 1940 and situated in the nearby meadow; this well is 30 feet deep with a water rest level of 25 feet and yield 11,500 gallons per hour. The untreated water is soft, acid, contains organic matter and is plumbo-solvent. To alter these characteristics the water is treated by various methods. The water is pumped through an aerating spray to a concrete tower 30 feet in height where it is dosed with lime. This process removes most of the iron and the carbon dioxide content. The water is then filtered through Permutit pressure filters and chlorinated before it is passed into concrete reservoirs which have a capacity of 363,000 gallons and top water level of 108 O.D.

The new 9" main installed during 1956 continued to give adequate gravitational pressures throughout the Borough without the need for boosting. Complaints of poor pressure were received in a few instances but these were due to corroded service pipes which necessitated renewal.

The quality of the water remained very satisfactory throughout the year as the reports of the bacteriological examinations reveal; the very occasional unsatisfactory sample being probably due to defects in collection and testing.

In addition to supplying the Borough, water is also supplied to a number of houses in the Bestwall and Worgret area of the adjoining Rural District. In the latter area, owing to poor pressures through lack of head, automatic boosting is carried out. Water is also supplied in bulk to the adjoining Rural District Council to supply the neighbouring village of Stoborough and surrounding area in the Parish of Arne.

The average daily consumption of water was approximately:-

Total	175,000	gallons
Wareham Borough Council ...	144,100	"
British Railways	17,100	"
Wareham and Purbeck R.D.C. ...	13,800	"

As the summer was an exceptionally wet one the consumption during that period was below the normal average.

Discussions continued during the year towards the formation of the Poole & East Dorset Water Board which would take over the Wareham Borough Water Undertaking, and by the end of the year agreement has been more or less reached by the authorities concerned and it was expected that the appointed day would be either 1st. October, 1959 or 1st. April, 1960. With the ever increasing consumption caused by the increased development taking place in the area and the modernisation of some of the older dwellings, the question of an additional source would have needed early consideration but the re-grouping of the existing water undertakings will undoubtedly obviate any new source works at Worgret. There is no doubt that the present policy of re-grouping existing water undertakings into large boards is a sound one and it will remove that parochial outlook which has created so many boundary difficulties in the past. Nevertheless it is appreciated that no Authority likes to see its responsibilities and powers taken over by some other body, but of course by the present re-grouping the rural dweller is going to have the benefits of the town dweller which he has gone without for so long.

Bacteriological Examination of Water - Public Supply

Probable number of B.Coli MacConkey 2 days, 37°C per 100 ml	Number of Samples = 44			
	Treated Water 37		Untreated Water 7	
	Total Coli	Faecal Coli	Total Coli	Faecal Coli
Nil	33	37	5	6
1	3	-	-	-
3	1	-	1	-
5	-	-	1	1
25	-	-	-	-

CHEMICAL ANALYSES

Certificate of Analysis of a sample of Untreated Water - Worgret Waterworks

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results:- as parts per million

Ammonia Free ...	0.029
" Albuminoid ...	0.200
Nitrites ...	0.003
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen ...	2.64
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80°F ...	0.935
" " " 4 hours " " ...	1.775
Chlorine ...	27.0
as Sodium Chloride ...	44.5
Hardness, temporary ...	62.0
" Permanent ...	13.6
" Total ...	75.6
Total solids ...	166.0
pH value ...	6.45

Metals: Iron 0.6 p.p.m. Copper, lead, zinc absent

Appearance: Pale yellow

Odour: None

Free Chlorine:

Free Carbon Dioxide 52.0 p.p.m.

Remarks

This is a fairly soft water, acid in character and contains some, but not an excessive amount of organic matter.

The Carbon Dioxide content is high and the water would be corrosive in its action on metals. The above results show no indication of pollution having taken place.

(Signed) ARTHUR S. CARLOS.
Public Analyst

Certificate of Analysis of a sample of Treated Water - Wareham Borough

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned samples with the following results:- as parts per million.

Ammonia, Free ...	0.024
" Albuminoid ...	0.152
Nitrites ...	0.007
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen ...	2.97
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80°F ...	0.630
" " " 4 hours " " ...	1.510
Chlorine ...	27.0
as Sodium Chloride ...	44.5
Hardness, temporary ...	79.6
" permanent ...	12.0
" total ...	91.6
Total Solids ...	180.0
pH value ...	7.80

Metals; Iron 0.1 p.p.m. Copper, lead, zinc Nil

Appearance: Colourless

Odour: None

Free Chlorine:

Free Carbon Dioxide 3.0

Remarks:

The above results, when compared with those of the untreated water, show that there is a very considerable reduction of the Free Carbon Dioxide and therefore of the corrosive action. In my opinion the water is very satisfactory for both drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) A. S. CARLOS
Public Ananlyst.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

There were no major extensions to the sewerage system or the disposal works.

The sewerage system in addition to serving the Borough, receives sewage from some 59 houses in the Bestwall area of the adjoining Rural District which lies just outside the Borough boundary. Storm water as far as is practicable is excluded from the system and is drained by soakaway pits or through old storm water drains to the Rivers Frome and Piddle. There is little doubt, however, that there is a substantial amount of storm water gaining access to the foul sewers; this is revealed by the volume of flow at the South Pumping Station during storms and prolonged rain. There is a 6" storm water overflow from the South Pumping Station to relieve the volume of flow during storm periods; although during the year no serious flooding occurred at the Quay, the enlargement of this overflow pipe would undoubtedly remove this danger. The surface water system for the town creates a difficulty from time to time; this is aggravated by the fact that there are no access points for frequent cleansing.

No. of houses not connected to the sewer ...	12
No. of houses with pail closets	4
No. of houses with cesspools	8
No. of pail closets abolished during the year...	1
No. of cesspools abolished	-
No. of houses connected to the sewer ...	22

The sewerage works consist of three pumping stations situated at South Bestwall, North Bridge and Northport, and a disposal works situated on eight acres of land on the Borough boundary to the north-east of the town. The length of rising mains is 3,800 yards.

The disposal works consist of:-

1 Balancing tank	-	capacity	7,814 gallons
2 Dortmund tanks	-	capacity	39,060 "
8 Sludge beds	-	area	8,100 sq. ft.

An area of approximately 5 acres of land is used for the treatment of the effluent from the Dortmund tanks; the effluent from the tanks is run off into series of lagoons which have been laid out in a regular pattern and during the year these were completed. The volume of flow from the three pumping stations is now a substantial one and it is still not possible to contain the effluent within the perimeter of the works; however now that the lagoons are completed in a neat and regular pattern the discharge takes place at only one or two points on the north-eastern boundary; elsewhere there are sound embankments.

As mentioned in previous reports it is evident that the disposal system is overloaded and not capable of dealing properly with the volume of sewerage. The ever increasing housing development will tend to make matters worse. It is fortunate that no serious public health nuisance exists as a result of these conditions but at certain times when the wind is south-easterly residents along the Sandford Road do justifiably complain of smell from these works.

It is hoped that the combined scheme for the Borough and the parish of Sandford on a new site situated further from housing development will not be long delayed.

Drainage Works carried out.

New drainage systems replacing those unsatisfactory ... 1

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of Inspections - Total 1,422

Bakehouses	1	Food inspection	14	Refuse collection	3
Building byelaws	160	Factories	14	Samples, Water - Bact.	44
Butchers Shops	7	Housing(Housing Acts)	69	" " - Chem.	2
Cafes	12	Housing General	469	Sewage disposal Works & Sewerage	56
Caravan site	5	Infectious Disease	1	Water supply	118
Dairies	2	Public lavatories	50	Miscellaneous	272
Drainage	100	Public Health Acts	3		
Food Premises	18	Rodent Control	2		

Statutory and Informal Notices

Notices	Number Served	Complied With	Outstanding
Informal	1	1	-
Statutory	-	-	-

Disinfection: One fumigation was carried out during the year.

Control of Moveable Dwellings

The one Caravan Site in the Borough is situated on the North Causeway and the lessee is permitted to station up to 40 caravans including 15 residential. All services are provided and the modern sanitary block is drained to a septic tank and filter. Regular visits are paid to this site which is very well maintained.

Verminous Premises

There were no cases of verminous premises reported during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council own one "Karrier" refuse vehicle and house and trade refuse collection is undertaken by the Council, collections being made weekly; two men are employed on this service. The tip is situated in the adjoining Rural District.

Street Cleansing

The main streets are cleansed and swept daily and the minor streets as often as possible. One full-time and one part-time man are employed. There appeared to be little improvement in the deposit of litter and this was most marked during the holiday season.

Public Lavatories

There are two conveniences in the Borough situated at Howards Lane(Ladies and Gents) and St. John's Hill (Gents only). These are cleaned daily and well maintained. Hooliganism occurs from time to time and it is regretted that the decorations carried out the previous year should be so wilfully maltreated.

Swimming Baths

There is only one swimming bath in the Borough at the County Modern School for the use of pupils. Bathing takes place in the River Frome near the Quay during the summer months.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The following is a copy of the Rodent Officer's Report:-

	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agriculture Premises
Number of properties inspected as a result of notification	37	2	-

	Local Authority			
Survey under Act	6	129	14	3
Properties infested with rats	1	6	1	2
" " " mice	-	15	1	-
" treated by Local Authority	1	-	1	-

Smoke Abatement and Clean Air Act, 1956

No action was necessary under this Act.

Petroleum Acts and Regulations: Eleven licences are in force for the storage of petroleum spirit. Occasionl visits are paid in respect of these.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

All bottled milk comes from outside the Borough. All milk is either "Pasteurised", "Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised" or "Tuberculin Tested", as the Borough is part of a specified area under Section 37 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Number of Milk Distributors on Register 31. 12. 58 9

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were renewed by the Council and were in force at the end of the year:-

Dealer's Licence for Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised milk ... 7
Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised milk 2
Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested milk 1

Milk Sampling

The following are particulars of milk samples taken in the district by the Food and Drugs Authority for examination:-

Designation	No. of Samples	Results of Tests			
		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	9	9	-	9	-
Pasteurised T.T.	1	1	-	1	-

Food Inspected and Condemned

Tinned goods 1 cwt. 2 qtrs. 9 lbs.
Ham 14 "
Fish 18 "

There are no slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Food Premises

(1) Number of Food Premises by Type of Business in the Area

Grocers	10	Bakehouses	1	Cafes & Restaurants	7
Greengrocers	4	Fish shops	3	Licensed premises	11
Butchers	5	Fried fish shops	2	(including 3 hotels)	
Dairies	1	Sweets & Confectionary	5		

(2) Number of Food premises by Type registered

(a) Under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Manufacture of sausages and preserved foods 8
Fish frying 2
Sale of Ice cream 17

(b) Under Milk & Dairies Regulations

Dairies 1

(3) Number of inspections of Registered Food Premises

Premises for manufacturing sausages 8
Fish fryingpremises 4
Ice cream premises 20
Dairy premises 1

Inspection of Food Premises, Cafes, Etc.

During the year one further food premises was modernised to bring into line with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. Visits are carried out as often as possible to the food establishments but in no case was formal action necessary. There is still room for improvement in some of the establishments and these are being kept under observation.

Informal notices served during the year ... 3

HOUSING

Twenty dwellings were erected during the year but no Council houses.

A new private estate of some 80 buildings commenced during the year. There is no doubt that the Research Establishment at Winfrith is in some respect encouraging development in the area.

The Council completed modernisation of 14 pre-war Council houses equiping them with internal W.C's. and hot water systems. It is regretted that the Council could not see their way to erect any houses; the number of newly weds and young families who have no house of their own are increasing and it is these to whom the Council will have to give their urgent consideration.

During the year a further 4 dwellings were improved with grant aid provided under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, making a total to date of 30. No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.

The following shows the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council Houses:-

Persons residing in the Borough	...	41
Persons residing outside the Borough	...	13
Aged Persons (Borough Bungalows)	...	25

Housing Programme

Site			No. of Houses Proposed	Completed in 1958	Completed since 1945
Kingsbere Estate	...	...	128	-	116
Moreton's Lane	...	...	10	-	10
Borough Bungalows					
Cockpits	...	...	2	-	2
Red Lion Garden	...	...	4	-	4
Moreton's Lane	...	...	2	-	2
Howards Lane	...	...	3	-	3
Ropers Lane	...	...	8	-	8

New Houses

Total number erected during 1958 ... 20

Number erected with State assistance:-

(a) by Local Authority ... Nil
(b) by other Bodies or Persons ... Nil

Houses Owned by Local Authority

Type			Built pre-war	Built since 1945	Total
Permanent	...	...	103	135	238
Prefabricated bungalows			-	10	10

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease apart from measles was very low during the year. During the first quarter of the year 142 cases of measles were notified; none of the cases were so serious as to require hospital treatment. No case of influenza, poliomyelitis, food poisoning or dysentery were notified.

Apart from 4 deaths due to pneumonia there were no deaths due to notifiable infectious disease.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The local health authority continued the vaccination of children and others eligible under the scheme initiated by the Ministry of Health and during the year 544 were given a course of 2 injections by the District Medical Officer of Health, compared with 190 in 1957.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria, Whooping cough and Tetanus

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is carried out at the Local Health Authority's Child Welfare Centre at the Methodist Hall, Dollins Lane, on the second and fourth Thursday every month from 2 to 4 p.m. Immunisation is also carried out by the Medical Practitioners in the area.

There is very little difficulty in getting parents to accept immunisation procedures for their children, and the response has been most gratifying in the case of poliomyelitis vaccination.

Notifications (Corrected) Figures

Disease	TOTAL	1st. Qtr	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Admitted to Hospital
Measles	147	142	3	2	-	-
Tuberculosis - respiratory	3	-	2	-	1	-
other	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified During 1958

Disease	Total	Age Groups									
		Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15 -24	25&Ov.	A.U
Measles	147	3	10	15	14	14	82	7	2	-	-
		Under 5	5-14		15-24		25-44	45-64		65 & Ov	A.U
Tuberculosis - respiratory	3	1	-		1		-	-		1	-

Scabies and Verminous Conditions

Three cases of verminous condition of the scalp in children of school age were reported during the year.

No case of scabies was reported.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 Section 47. Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention to Suitable Premises

It was not necessary to take any action under this section of the Act during the year.

One case - an old lady living alone in an insanitary rat infested house who had refused admission to hospital for treatment, was investigated with a view to obtaining a Removal Order. The old lady eventually agreed to be admitted to hospital.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for the Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including inspections mad by the Public Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	5	-	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	29	15	1	-
(111) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding Outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	34	15	1	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness(S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences(S7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	-	1	-

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Section 110 and 111

No of Outworkers ... NIL